

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR ADAPTABLE PROVISIONING OF GENERIC APPLICATION CONTENT

Background

The present application relates to provisioning of applications on a terminal.

There is a continually increasing number of terminals in use today, such as mobile telephones, PDAs with wireless communication capabilities, personal computers, self service kiosks and two-way pagers. Software applications which run on these terminals increase their utility. For example, a mobile phone may include an application which retrieves the weather for a range of cities, or a PDA may include an application that allows a user to shop for groceries. These software applications take advantage of the connectivity to a network in order to provide timely and useful services to users. However, due to the restricted resources of some terminals, and the complexity of delivering large amounts of data for processing to the terminals, developing and maintaining data processing capabilities of software applications remains a difficult and time-consuming task.

The current state of art for over-the-air (OTA) provisioning typically consists of a rigid set of operations that are suited to deliver a fixed content type. The runtime environment on the terminal is designed to handle a limited set of predefined content types and incapable of any content-adaptive or customized provisioning by the content provider or publisher. The conventional provisioning process is typically carried out by software that contains certain knowledge of the downloaded content and the installation steps. Due to this built-in knowledge, the content provider and device user are left with an inflexible “one size fits all” model. The limitations of this approach can include: an inability to handle arbitrary content; an inability to

1 dynamically extend existing applications with new features; and an inability to provide
2 customized provisioning capabilities based on content type and/or requirements.

3
4
5 Systems and methods of adaptable provisioning of generic application content are
6 disclosed to obviate or mitigate at least some of the above presented disadvantages.

7 8 **Summary**

9 The current state of art for over-the-air (OTA) provisioning typically consists of a rigid
10 set of operations that are suited to deliver a fixed content type. A runtime environment on the
11 terminal is designed to handle a limited set of predefined content types and incapable of any
12 content-adaptive or customized provisioning by the content provider or publisher. The
13 limitations of this approach can include: an inability to handle arbitrary content; an inability to
14 dynamically extend existing applications with new features; and an inability to provide
15 customized provisioning capabilities based on content type and/or requirements. Contrary to
16 current provisioning systems there are provided systems and methods for providing adaptable
17 provisioning of an application program on a runtime environment of a terminal. The application
18 includes generic application content. One method comprises the step of configuring a
19 provisioning API set including a generic API, such that the generic API is addressable by at least
20 two dissimilar content types of the generic application content. This method also obtains an
21 enabler related to a selected content type of the generic application content, such that the enabler
22 is configured for executing provisioning instruction requests for the generic application content
23 according to the selected application content. Finally, according to this method portions of the

1 generic application content having the selected application content are provisioned by using the
2 enabler to access the generic API.

3
4 A method is disclosed for providing adaptable provisioning of an application program on
5 a runtime environment of a terminal, the application including generic application content, the
6 method comprising the steps of: configuring a provisioning API set including a generic API, the
7 generic API for being addressed by at least two dissimilar content types of the generic
8 application content; obtaining an enabler related to a selected content type of the generic
9 application content, the enabler configured for executing provisioning instruction requests for the
10 generic application content according to the selected application content; and provisioning
11 portions of the generic application content having the selected application content by using the
12 enabler to access the generic API.

13
14 A terminal is also provided for providing adaptable provisioning of an application
15 program on a runtime environment, the application including generic application content, the
16 terminal comprising: a processing framework for obtaining the application content; a
17 provisioning API set including a generic API included in the framework, the generic API for
18 being addressed by at least two dissimilar content types of the generic application content; an
19 enabler related to a selected content type of the generic application content, the enabler
20 configured for executing provisioning instruction requests for the generic application content
21 according to the selected application content; and a provisioning module for provisioning
22 portions of the generic application content having the selected application content by using the
23 enabler to access the generic API.

1
2 There is also provided a computer program product for providing adaptable provisioning
3 of an application program on a terminal, the application including generic application content,
4 the computer program product comprising: a computer readable medium; a processing
5 framework module stored on the computer readable medium for obtaining the application
6 content; a provisioning API set module coupled to the framework module, the set module
7 including a generic API, the generic API for being addressed by at least two dissimilar content
8 types of the generic application content; an extension module coupled to the framework module,
9 the extension module configured for having an enabler related to a selected content type of the
10 generic application content, the enabler configured for executing provisioning instruction
11 requests for the generic application content according to the selected application content; and a
12 provisioning module for provisioning portions of the generic application content having the
13 selected application content by using the enabler to access the generic API.

14 15 **Brief Description Of The Drawings**

16 These and other features will become more apparent in the following detailed description
17 in which reference is made to the appended example drawings, wherein:

18 Figure 1 is a block diagram of a network system;

19 Figure 2 is a block diagram of a generic terminal of Figure 1;

20 Figure 3 shows a processing framework of the terminal of Figure 2;

21 Figure 4 is a provisioning service presentation of API's of Figure 3;

22 Figure 5 is an illustration of an Enabler plugin SPI of the framework of Figure 3;

23 Figure 6 illustrates the provisioning process via provisioning instructions for the service

of Figure 4; and

Figure 7 illustrates refinement of the application provisioning steps shown in Figure 6.

Detailed Description

Network System

Referring to Figure 1, a network system 10 comprises a plurality of terminals 100 for interacting with one or more application servers 110 accessed by a server 106, via a coupled Wide Area Network (WAN) 104 such as but not limited to the Internet. These generic terminals 100 can be such as but not limited to wired devices such as personal computers 116, wireless devices 101, PDAs, self-service kiosks and the like. The server 106 provides access to application programs 107 through messages 105. The system 10 provides the capability of the terminal 100 to provision the content of the application program 107, such as but not limited to expressed in a structured definition language (e.g., XML), that has optional associated provisioning instructions 124 for interacting with various provisioning Application Program Interfaces (API) 122 used by a provisioning service 308 of a processing framework 206 (see Figures 2 and 3). The provisioning instructions 124 represent a customizable provisioning scheme tailored to the desired implementation of the application 107 on the terminal 100. The instructions 124 can be code/script and/or provisioning data such as an XML definition.

The content of the application 107 can be provisioned on the terminal 100 according to the associated customized provisioning instructions 124, such as but not limited to supplied by the content provider (for example the server 110) or publisher (not shown). Accordingly, the content has provisioning control to help specify the requirements and actions of application 107 provisioning through the associated provisioning instructions 124. Further, the Framework 206

1 can share the provisioning control of the application 107 by recognizing the content provisioning
2 control and customizing the provisioning process of the framework to accommodate. The
3 framework 206 provides the capability to request the provisioning API 122 as appropriate, and
4 address that API 122 tailored to content type of the application 107. The framework 206 can be
5 referred to as a union of collaborating modules that collectively provision, store and evaluate
6 applications 107.

7
8 The provisioning API 122 requested by the provisioning instructions 124 could be
9 retrieved locally (terminal 100 storage) or remotely for example from an API repository/database
10 126 accessed through a repository server 108. Alternatively, the remote server 106 could push
11 the provisioning API 122 on demand, or in connection with delivery of application 107, to the
12 terminal 100 in conjunction with the customized API 122 of the provisioning instructions 124 of
13 the application 107. It is recognized that XML represents only one example of a structured
14 definition language that can be used to define the content of the application 107. Other example
15 languages can include, without limitation, HTML, XHTML, XSMML, RDF, Machine Readable
16 Cataloging (MARC), and Multipurpose Internet Mail Extensions (MIME). It is recognized that
17 the system 10 can be suitable to any range of XML-defined applications 107 to be used in
18 conjunction with terminals 100 that may be limited in terms of connectivity, memory and/or
19 storage. It is further recognized that the servers 106, 108, 110 could be implemented by a
20 service provider 118 providing a schema defined service, such as a web service by example. A
21 single environment could provide all server 106, 108, 110 functionality in a single computer
22 system, or across multiple computer systems.

1 The system 10 operates such that the application 107 and the framework 206 can have
2 separate but operatively coupled provisioning control (e.g. application provisioning intelligence)
3 of the provisioning process. The first area of intelligence is with the Content of the application
4 107, which contributes to the specification of the requirements and actions of provisioning
5 through the provisioning instructions 124. The remaining intelligence is with the framework 206,
6 which provides the provisioning service 308 and associated provisioning API 122 (see Figure 3).
7 Optionally, the framework 206 can also include an extension module 314 that allows
8 introduction of specific API 122 access for provisioning the content type associated with the
9 application 107. The shared provisioning control of the application 107 and framework 206 is
10 adaptable according to the selected provisioning instructions 124 and the correspondingly
11 selected provisioning API 122 available over the network 104 of the system 10.

12
13 Further, it is recognised the system 10 can also have a gateway server 112 for connecting
14 the desktop terminals 116 via a Local Area Network (LAN) 114 to the server 106. Further, the
15 system 10 can have a wireless network 102 for connecting the wireless devices 101 to the WAN
16 104. It is recognized that other terminals and computers (not shown) could be connected to the
17 server 106,108 via the WAN 104 and associated networks other than as shown in Figure 1. The
18 generic terminals 100, wireless devices 101 and personal computers 116 are hereafter referred to
19 as the terminal 100 for the sake of simplicity. Further, the networks 102, 104, 112 of the system
20 10 will hereafter be referred to as the network 104, for the sake of simplicity. It is recognized
21 that there could be multiple servers 106, 108, 110, and/or that the functionality of the servers
22 106, 108 and/or 110 could be combined in various configurations, if desired.

1 **Generic Terminal**

2 Referring to Figure 2, the terminals 100 are such as but not limited to mobile telephones
3 (or other wireless devices), PDAs, two-way pagers or dual-mode communication terminals. The
4 terminals 100 include a network connection interface 200, such as a wireless transceiver or a
5 wired network interface card or a modem, coupled via connection 218 to a terminal
6 infrastructure 204. The connection interface 200 is connectable during operation of the
7 terminals 100 to the network 104, such as to the wireless network 102 by, for example, IR links,
8 RF links, etc. (see Figure 1), which enables the terminals 100 to communicate with each other
9 and with external systems (such as the server 106 - see Figure 1) via the network 104 and to
10 coordinate the requests/response messages 105 between the terminals 100 and the servers 106,
11 110. The network 104 supports the transmission of the provisioning API 122 in the
12 requests/response messages 105 between terminals 100 and external systems, which are
13 connected to the network 104. The network 104 may also support voice communication for
14 telephone calls between the terminals 100 and terminals which are external to the network 104.
15 A wireless data transmission protocol can be used by the wireless network 102, such as but not
16 limited to DataTAC, GPRS or CDMA.

17
18 Referring again to Figure 2, the terminals 100 also have a user interface 202, coupled to
19 the terminal infrastructure 204 by connection 222, to facilitate interaction with a user (not
20 shown). The user interface 202 can include one or more user input devices such as but not
21 limited to a QWERTY keyboard, a keypad, a trackwheel, a stylus, a mouse, a microphone and
22 the user output device such as an LCD screen display and/or a speaker. If the screen is touch
23 sensitive, then the display can also be used as the user input device as controlled by the terminal

1 infrastructure 204. The user interface 202 is employed by the user of the terminal 100 to
2 coordinate the requests/response message messages 105 over the system 10 (see Figure 1) as
3 employed by the processing framework 206.
4

5 Referring again to Figure 2, operation of the terminal 100 is enabled by the terminal
6 infrastructure 204. The terminal infrastructure 204 includes the computer processor 208 and the
7 associated memory module 210. The computer processor 208 manipulates the operation of the
8 network interface 200, the user interface 202 and the framework 206 of the communication
9 terminal 100 by executing related instructions, which are provided by an operating system; the
10 computer processor 208 can include one or more processing elements that may include one or
11 more general purpose processors and/or special purpose processors (e.g., ASICs, FPGAs, DSPs,
12 etc.). Further, it is recognized that the terminal infrastructure 204 can include a computer
13 readable storage medium 212 coupled to the processor 208 for providing instructions to the
14 processor for loading/updating client application programs 107, the provisioning instructions 124
15 and the provisioning API 122. The computer readable medium 212 can include hardware and/or
16 software such as, by way of example only, magnetic disks, magnetic tape, optically readable
17 medium such as CD/DVD ROMS, and memory cards. In each case, the computer readable
18 medium 212 may take the form of a small disk, floppy diskette, cassette, hard disk drive, solid
19 state memory card, or RAM provided in the memory module 210. It should be noted that the
20 above listed example computer readable mediums 212 can be used either alone or in
21 combination.
22

23 **Processing Framework**

Referring to Figure 3, the framework provides the provisioning service 308 and associated provisioning API 122. The framework 206 also includes an extension module 314 that allows introduction of specific API 122 access for provisioning the content type associated with the application 107. A client runtime environment is provided by the processing framework 206. Multiple such runtime environments could potentially be available for use by the processing framework 206 of a given terminal 100. The framework 206 of the terminal 100 is coupled to the infrastructure 204 by the connection 220 and is an interface to the terminal 100 functionality of the processor 208 and associated operating system of the infrastructure 204. The client runtime environment of the terminals 100 is preferably capable of generating, hosting and executing client application programs 107 on the terminal 100; if multiple runtime environments are available, a particular one can be selected for use with a given application program 107. Further, specific functions of the client runtime environment can include such as but not limited to service framework 304 support for language, coordinating memory allocation, networking, management of data during I/O operations, coordinating graphics on an output device of the terminals 100 and providing access to core object oriented classes and supporting files/libraries. Examples of the runtime environments implemented by the terminals 100 can include such as but not limited to Common Language Runtime (CLR) by Microsoft and Java Runtime Environment (JRE) by Sun Microsystems. It is recognised that the components of the processing framework 206 can include software, hardware or a combination thereof.

The processing framework 206 manages the application 107 provisioning, retrieving and removing from the runtime environment of the terminal 100. The processing framework 206 provides ability to dynamically manage the provisioning API 122. It is recognized that the control of provisioning the content of the application 107 may be distributed between the

1 application 107 through the provisioning instructions 124 and the provisioning service 308 of the
2 Framework 206, which represents the separation as Application 107 Intelligence and Framework
3 206 Intelligence. Having made this separation, the application 107 may no longer be bound by
4 static provisioning procedures that would normally be imprinted on terminal 100 prior
5 provisioning procedures.

6
7 The Framework 206 provisioning control can be responsible for recognizing application
8 107 provisioning intelligence and customizing the provisioning process to accommodate. The
9 framework 206 provides the capability to request the appropriate provisioning API 122, and
10 address those API 122 with the specified content type of the application 107. Specific actions of
11 the framework 206 can include such as but not limited to: recognising the API 122 required for
12 the Content of the application 107 (as specified by the provisioning instructions 124 for
13 example); lookup of the API 122 on the terminal 100 or via the network 104; downloading the
14 API 122 from the specified remote network 104 location if needed; and removing or otherwise
15 suspending/caching the API 122 no longer required by the terminal 100 (such as in the case of an
16 application program upgrade). In the environments with centralized management of the
17 terminals 100 is being enforced (e.g. corporate space), a central server (not shown) could initiate
18 removal of obsolete API 122 on the respective terminals 100.

19
20 Referring again to Figure 3, the Processing Framework 206 can provide generic service
21 framework 304 functionality as part of, or separate from, the application program 107 such as
22 but not limited to; an Application Manager 306, the provisioning extension module 314, the
23 Provisioning service 308, a Communication Service 316, a provisioning Script Interpreter 312,

1 and a Persistence Manager 310. Other services (not shown) can include a presentation service, a
2 terminal access service and a security manager. It is recognised that separate service 304
3 functionality can be shared by a plurality of application programs 107, or can be represented as a
4 series of respective services 304 on an application 107 per application 107 basis.

5
6 Referring again to Figure 3, the communication service 316 manages connectivity
7 between the terminals 100 and the servers 106,110 via the network 104, including the ability to
8 send and receive data in the framework 206 and to fetch remotely stored API 122 as required.
9 The persistence manager 310 allows the API 122 to be locally stored in the memory module 210.
10 The provisioning service 308 co-ordinates the process of provisioning the application 107 into
11 the Framework 206. The Provisioning Service 308 can represent the application 107 in a format
12 that is recognized by the Application Manager 306 for evaluation/execution in the runtime
13 environment, as further described below. The Application Manager 306 can be used to interact
14 with the user interface 202 (see Figure 2), manages application lifetime etc. The Application
15 Manager 306 can also evaluate the internal representation of the Content of the application 107
16 as provisioned. The Extension Module 314 offers a requested API 122 to the Provisioning
17 Service 308 to operate on the content. The provisioning Script Interpreter 312 can interpret the
18 Provisioning instructions 124 and direct provisioning actions. Further, the provisioning API 122
19 can be referred to as an arbitrary set of operations utilized by the Provisioning Service 308 to
20 perform customized application 107 provisioning. The Provisioning API 122 can be offered by
21 the Extension Module 314.

1 Optionally, the framework 206 can include the Security Manager that may perform
2 validation of provisioning tasks, the Screen Manager that may interact with the Framework user
3 to collect required provisioning data, and the terminal Access Service that may be used to
4 interrogate terminal specific information required to complete provisioning. It is recognized that
5 other configurations of the processing framework 206 with respective services 306, 308, 310,
6 312, 314, 316 for implementing the application 107 provisioning can be other than shown, as
7 desired. Further, it is recognized that the framework 206 can be part of the operating system of
8 the terminal infrastructure 204.

9
10 Referring to Figure 4, the provisioning service 308 of the framework 206 has the
11 capability to query for the desired API required at provisioning time. Further, the Provisioning
12 Service 308 has the capability to query for a particular API set/Content Type combination,
13 according to such as by example the provisioning instructions 124 given to the application 107 as
14 a series of code and/or script. This facility is utilized by generic content of the application 107 to
15 dynamically request the appropriate API be made available for its provisioning procedure,
16 further described below in relation to Figure 6. The Provisioning Service 308 may provide a
17 built in API set 400 to satisfy a standard provisioning procedure. Custom APIs sets 406 are made
18 available to the provisioning script interpreter 312 on request. The steps for this procedure are as
19 follows:

- 20 1) The provisioning script interpreter 312 queries 401 for the API 122 definition of interest;
- 21 2) The customized API 406 is returned 402;
- 22 3) The provisioning script interpreter 312 makes calls 403 to the custom API 406 as
- 23 required; and

1 4) The provisioning script interpreter 312 makes calls 404 for standard provisioning API
2 400 operations as required.

3
4 It is recognized that the above described architecture of Figure 4, regarding an example
5 of the provisioning instructions 124 as code/script, could be adapted to provision the application
6 107 content via the provisioning instructions 124 defined as provisioning Data, or as a
7 combination thereof.

8 9 **Customized Provisioning**

10 To provide customized provisioning capability, the provisioning control of the
11 application 107 on the terminal 100 can be distributed between the application 107 (through the
12 provisioning instructions 124) and the framework 206.

13 Framework 206 Intelligence

14 The Framework 206 is responsible for recognizing application 107 provisioning
15 intelligence and customizing the provisioning process to suit it, as described above. The
16 framework 206 provides the capability to request the provisioning API 122 required, and address
17 that API 122 with any content type.

18 19 Application 107 Intelligence

20 Application control implies that the content of the application 107 is able to influence,
21 through the coupled provisioning instructions 124, the operations conducted at provisioning
22 time. Application intelligence in the form of the provisioning instructions 124 may take on three

1 general forms: a separate unit of provisioning code (provisioning script); a set of provisioning
2 data; or a combination thereof.

3 Provisioning Script

4 A Provisioning Script, as the provisioning instructions 124, represents a distinct unit of
5 executable instructions that can direct the Framework 206 during provisioning. The Provisioning
6 Script relies on the fact that the Framework 206 makes available the appropriate API 122 to
7 satisfy provisioning operations. The Framework 206 provides the API 122 of choice, as specified
8 by the script, suitable to the content type(s) of the application 107. It is recognized that the
9 provisioning instructions 124 could be part of the framework 206 or coupled to the application
10 107.

11 Embedded Script

12 A provisioning script, as the provisioning instructions 124, may be attached to the content
13 of the application 107 at download time to the terminal 100 (for example from the server 106 –
14 see Figure 1). The script is immediately available to be executed within the Framework 206.

15 External Script

16 It may be desirable to reuse a particular provisioning script. In this case, the script may be
17 separated from the Content of the application 107 and requested by the Provisioning Service 308
18 (see Figure 3) at provisioning time. The script (i.e. the provisioning instructions 124) could be
19 fetched either remotely or locally as circumstances dictate.

20 Provisioning Configuration Data

21 Provisioning Data consists of an arbitrary set of properties, which can be referred to as an
22 embedded or otherwise coupled version of the provisioning instructions 124, that may be

specified in the content of the application 107. This approach to application 107 intelligence relies on the fact that the Framework 206 recognizes the set of possible properties and modifies the provisioning process to suit customized settings. It is recognised that the provisioning data could be designed as external to the content of the application 107.

Arbitrary Provisioning API, Generic Content Provisioning

The system framework 206 is capable of provisioning Generic Content (GC) of the application 107 via an arbitrary set of provisioning operations. Accordingly, the provisioning process is detached from how the GC is embodied (the content type) in the application 107.

Referring to Figure 5, the Framework 206 (see Figure 2) is enhanced to provide the Extension Module 314 and a generic Provisioning Service 308 that offers API querying coupled to content type(s) of the application 107.

The Extension Module 314 provides a Service Provider Interface (SPI) 500 to plug-in handlers or enablers 502 for API extensions. The API extensions in this case are distinct provisioning API sets 504. The ability to address a particular API choice of the set 504 to provision a desired content type of the application 107 is supplied through the appropriate enabler 502. The provisioning service 308 offers the capability to query for the desired generic API from the set 504 required at provisioning time. It should be recognised that the generic API 504 are each able to interact with a generic content, i.e. each API 504 can interact with a variety of different content types through a predefined generic content type interface, such as but not limited to transforming the data of the content type to a generic representation format recognisable by the generic API 504. The enabler 502 would be in this case a translation

1 mechanism between a specific content type of the application 107 and the generic processing
2 capabilities of the API 504. The Extension Module 314 permits a service provider to register
3 the API enabler 502 on the terminal 100 for selected content types and selected API 504. The
4 Extension Module 314 allows use of a particular provisioning API 504 for provisioning of a
5 generic content type (defined as a specific type through the specified enabler 502). The
6 Extension Module 314 typically implements a standard API set 506 for the most common set of
7 operations, the so-called Standard Provisioning API A of Figure 5. The Extension Module 314
8 also contains custom API 508, which can be made available according to the provisioning
9 instructions 124 (see Figure 3) which would contain a reference to the custom API 508
10 appropriate to provision the application 107. These custom API 508 could be obtained either
11 locally on the terminal 100 if available or remotely such as on the repository 126 (see Figure 1).

12 Generic Content Type

13 The Framework 206 that conducts the provisioning process is now insensitive to the type
14 of the GC. This property is imparted through introduction of the plugin SPI 500 for API
15 Extensions (through the enablers 502). The enablers 502 are available for digestion of a
16 predefined content type (such as one per enabler 502) for presenting to the generic provisioning
17 API 504 selected by the provisioning service 308.

19 Plugin SPI 500

20 The plugin SPI 500 for API Extensions provides the capability for Service Providers to
21 introduce enablers 502 to the Extension Module 314, i.e. the SPI 500 provides an interface for
22 connecting the enablers 502 to the Extension Module 314. As plugin enablers 502 may apply to
23 new content types, the plugin SPI 500 provides the capability of the Extension Module 314 to

1 dynamically extend the processing scope of the Framework 206. Referring to Figures 1 and 3, it
2 is recognized that the Extension Module 314 can search for or otherwise obtain unavailable or
3 new enablers 502 from the local storage 210 or remotely from such as the repository 126.

4 API Enabler

5 Referring to Figure 5, the enabler 502 is an instructional component that provides access
6 to a desired API 504 for provisioning a predefined content type for the respective enabler 502.
7 The enabler can be written by the service provider 118 (see Figure 1) and integrated with the
8 Extension Module 314 via the plugin SPI 500. The enabler 502 can therefore be referred to as an
9 executable unit that executes provisioning instruction requests (such as code and/or script) in the
10 context of the known content type to which the enabler 502 is assigned. The enabler 502
11 performs the requested function on the provisioning API, and operates on its known content type
12 as is appropriate to fulfilling the requests. There are such as but not limited to three ways in
13 which a required enabler 502 may be resolved:

- 14 ▪ the enabler 502 for the selected content type of the downloaded application 107 is already
15 installed in the framework 206 and is therefore known to the Extension Module 314;
- 16 ▪ the enabler 502 for the selected content type of the downloaded application 107 is
17 bundled with a provisioned content descriptor (e.g. header-like document describing the
18 requested content) of the application 107. The Framework 206 installs this enabler 502 as
19 a preliminary step in the provisioning process; and
- 20 ▪ the Extension Module 314 has the capability to dynamically provision the enabler 502
21 from the location specified in the content descriptor. The enabler 502 is downloaded and
22 installed via the SPI 500 as a preliminary step in the provisioning process.

1 Example: provisioning of ringtones vs game application

2 Consider the case where a custom generic "Provisioning Compression API" 504 exists
3 that provides ability to compress data at installation time. This API 504 provides an operation
4 called flatten(). A selected enabler "A" is provided that operates on content type A: ringtone
5 data, and a separate enabler "B" operates on the game (i.e. content type B). The provisioning
6 script included with both enablers 502 make use of the same generic compression API 504.

7
8 During provisioning of the ringtone, the provisioning service 308 makes a request for the
9 Provisioning Compression API's flatten() operation. In this case, enabler A extracts the sound
10 bytes of the ringtone description and passes them to the flatten() method for compression. During
11 provisioning of the game, enabler B extracts graphic and sound sequences from the game content
12 description and passes those to the same flatten() for compression. It should be recognised that
13 only one version of the generic API 504 is used to process multiple different content types.

14
15 Sample Extension Module 314 Configuration

16 Consider the case where the Extension Module 314 offers two provisioning API's.

- 17 ▪ API.A – the standard provisioning API 506 (see Figure 5) and
- 18 ▪ API.B – an enhanced provisioning API 508.

19 Two types of GC are to be provisioned:

- 20 ▪ new content type X
- 21 ▪ known content type Y

1 In this scenario, Enabler A addresses access to the standard API.A for provisioning
2 content type X and Enabler B addresses access to new API.B (contained) for a known content
3 type Y. It is recognized that this example could be extended to support any set of provisioning
4 operations for any content type.

6 **Sample Provisioning Procedure**

7 The following procedure illustrates the Generic Provisioning Model using application
8 intelligence specified via the provisioning instructions 124. Referring to Figure 6;

- 9 1) Application Manager 306 requests 601 the Provisioning Service 308 to download and
10 install Generic Content;
- 11 2) The Provisioning Service 308 fetches 602 the GC via the Communication Service 316;
- 12 3) The Provisioning Service 308 inspects 603 the GC to see if it contains the provisioning
13 instructions 124 (embedded). If so, step 604 is skipped;
- 14 4) The Provisioning Service 308 can fetch 604 the provisioning instructions 124 via the
15 Communication Service 316;
- 16 5) The provisioning instructions 124, if used, can specify 604 the Provisioning API 504. The
17 content type is known from the type of GC downloaded. The Extension Module 314 is
18 queried for the plugin enabler 502 that provides access to the provisioning API 504
19 desired for the GC content type. The means by which a plugin enabler 502 may be
20 acquired has been discussed above;
- 21 6) The Extension Module 314 is registered 606 to the Provisioning Script Interpreter 312 for
22 future provisioning API calls;

- 1 7) The Provisioning Service 308 kicks off 607 the provisioning process by calling the
- 2 Provisioning Script Interpreter 312;
- 3 8) The Provisioning Script Interpreter 312 executes 608 provisioning steps required by the
- 4 instructions 124, located either as part of the framework 206 or as a separate component
- 5 coupled to the application 107;
- 6 9) The Provisioning Script Interpreter 312 directs 609 calls for provisioning API
- 7 functionality to the exposed enabler 502 of the Extension Module 314 corresponding to
- 8 the content type of the GC;
- 9 10) The Provisioning API 504 thus addressed may utilize 610 associated Framework 206
- 10 modules to supply operations such as but not limited to,
- 11 a. validation of dependencies, size, version, compatibility etc.,
- 12 b. performance of security checks,
- 13 c. user interactions, required user data collection, and
- 14 d. device and environment info interrogation;
- 15 11) The Provisioning Script Interpreter 312 in conjunction with the appropriate API 504
- 16 digests 611 the generic content and persists it locally in a format suitable to Application
- 17 Manager 306 evaluation.

18

19 In view of the above, a system 10 of adaptable provisioning is described with the capabilities of

20 the ability to customize the provisioning process (dynamic) and neutrality to application content

21 type (generic). To facilitate the adaptable provisioning scheme, the system 10 can use: optionally

22 application 107 defined provisioning; framework 206 managed provisioning API; and

23 provisioning extension enablers 502.

1

2 **Provisioning Extensibility Example**

3 Given the capabilities of the system 10 a general application of dynamic provisioning can
4 be illustrated. This is the ability to enhance or otherwise adapt the provisioning instructions 124
5 as an application 107 is deployed throughout a network of collaborating parties. This approach is
6 presented through the following example Provider Refined Provisioning Process with reference
7 to Figure 7.

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- 1) In this example, the developer 708 of a particular application 107 provides 701 a set of generic provisioning instructions 124a.
- 2) The application 107 is now transferred 702 to a carrier registry 710 on offer to corporate clients.
- 3) As the carrier 710 has certain requirements as part of normal operating procedure, the provisioning instructions 124a are enhanced to include further instructions 124b as appropriate.
- 4) A corporation interested in this particular application 107 installs 704 it into their own corporate registry 712.
- 5) Due to potential requirements for corporate privacy, for instance, the provisioning instructions 124a,b are again updated to reflect additional policy 124c.
- 6) When the corporate user ultimately requests installation of the application 107, the refined provisioning instructions 124a,b,c are executed including instructions from the developer 708, carrier 710 and corporation 712.

1 The end result is the application 107 having the same generic content, and a customized
2 provisioning procedure that suits the desires and/or requirements of the corporation 712.

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4 The above description relates to one or more exemplary systems and methods. Many
5 variations will be apparent to those knowledgeable in the field, and such variations are within the
6 scope of the application. It is recognized that structured definition languages for the content of
7 the application 107 other than XML can be used, as well as a plurality of different terminals 100,
8 such as PC's, PDA's, kiosks, mobile devices. The terminals 100 can be deployed on wired
9 and/or wireless network 104 topologies. For example, it is recognised that implementation of the
10 system 10 can include a processing framework module for obtaining the application content; a
11 provisioning API set module including a generic API, the generic API for being addressed by at
12 least two dissimilar content types of the generic application content; an extension module
13 configured for having an enabler related to a selected content type of the generic application
14 content, the enabler configured for executing provisioning instruction requests for the generic
15 application content according to the selected application content; and a provisioning module for
16 provisioning portions of the generic application content having the selected application content
17 by using the enabler to access the generic API.